



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/901,556  
Applicant : Hötten et al.  
Filed : September 24, 1999  
TC/A.U. : 1646  
Examiner : P. Mertz

Docket No. : 2923-286  
Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. : 3191

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

December 1, 2004

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.